



Moms want ‘gun sense’ in America

By Jackie Velez
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America challenged students to join their mommy mission Wednesday, Oct. 25, at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Lisa Epstein, chapter co-leader of Texas Moms Demand Action, talked in the Student Engagement about the grass-roots movement and how she got her start in the fight for gun control.

“1999 was when gun violence came into my world; it was the Columbine shooting,” said Epstein. “I was pregnant with my daughter at the time.”

Being pregnant during a time when a school shooting had just taken place,

Epstein said she felt the need to do something about this growing problem.

At the time, no one had ever heard of such a thing happening.

“I just couldn’t believe that could happen in America – that you could send your kids to the public school and this could happen,” Epstein said.

Shortly afterwards, Epstein looked for anti-gun-violence groups.

“It wasn’t until five years ago that Moms Demand Action was formed,” Epstein said. “This was really the first gun violence prevention organization that was really a grass-roots movement.”

The organization was founded by a

stay-at-home mother, Shannon Watts, after the Sandy Hook shooting. Watts created the organization on Facebook and modeled it after Mothers Against Drunk Driving, which was founded in the 1980s.

“There are 93 Americans every single day killed by guns in America,” Epstein said. “There have been almost as many mass shootings as days of the year. Most of these mass shootings, believe it or not, are domestic violence,” said Epstein.

While many shootings have ended up in the news, there are some that are never publicized, Epstein said, sharing a story of a New Braunfels first-grader who was found carrying a gun in her backpack

earlier this year. And at Lamar High School in Houston in October, “a kid brought a gun to school and they were on lockdown,” said Epstein.

To stress the importance of what the organization is about, Epstein assured its non-partisan views.

“We support the Second Amendment,” she stated. “A lot of us are gun owners and hunters, but the Second Amendment is not without restrictions. It’s not an unfettered access to any kind of gun or any kind of weapon.”

FYI
To join Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, visit momsdemandaction.org.

Speaker: Male sexual assault needs attention

By Felicity Huang
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

The founder of a non-profit organization aimed at helping male survivors of sexual abuse or assault contends people should break stereotypes towards such victims and be more aware it happens.

The speaker, Steve LePore, also serves as executive director of iin6, a nonprofit organization that helps men who have had unwanted or abusive sexual experience live healthier and happier lives. He was at the University of the Incarnate Word on Oct. 9 to deliver a message about “Normalizing the Conversation: The 101 on Male Sexual Abuse and Assault.”

LePore’s appearance was sponsored by a \$100,000 federal grant that’s funding a three-year study concerning psychological trauma that results from conflict. The grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities was awarded to UIW in December 2015 for its College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

Dr. Zenon Culverhouse, an assistant professor of philosophy who is directing the study, said

UIW will incorporate findings from the trauma project into existing classes, and develop new classes adopting what’s learned. By using literature that talks about traumatic experiences, the university hopes to create classes and develop dialogue that can help tackle taboo topics.

LePore spoke in a Student Engagement Center conference room, sharing his 29 years of experience in non-profit management and male sexual abuse consulting. LePore tried to break stereotypes regarding male sexual abuse. As a visual aid, audience members received handouts and materials.

“Men are not raped, men are abused,” LePore said.

He said child sexual abuse includes sexual activity with a minor and doesn’t need to include physical contact. Exposing oneself to a minor, masturbation in the presence of a minor and forcing the minor to masturbate all could be forms of child sexual abuse.

Sexual assault refers to sexual contact or behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the

victim. It includes attempted rape, rape, unwanted sexual touching, etc. Consent in this case is the key to distinguish whether it’s sexual abuse or not.

LePore contended people usually compare male sexual abuse with female sexual abuse. Girls are considered the disadvantaged, vulnerable and most traumatized victims, but the fact is sexual abuse harms boys and girls equally, he said. Girls and women can sexually abuse boys and men, and the boys or men are not “lucky” to be treated this way, but instead are exploited and harmed.

“At least one in six men are survivors of sexual abuse or assault,” LePore said, explaining what inspired the name of his organization. He said there are limited disclosure rates regarding male sexual abuse because it’s seen through a lens that includes stereotypes, ethnic identity, religious identity, sexual orientation and gender expression.

Boys are taught to be masculine, tough, strong, independent and fearsome, LePore said. They are taught that men must never

be emotional, timid, vulnerable and victimized. But these ideas make men stereotype themselves, he contended.

“When a boy or man is sexually abused, it has nothing to do with how ‘masculine’ he is,” LePore said. “Whether he is gay, straight or bisexual, a boy’s sexual orientation or gender expression is neither the cause nor the result of sexual abuse.”

LePore said men are afraid of exposing their weaknesses and needs. They pretend to be strong, but they get traumatized deeply. They feel insecure inside so they are afraid if they disclose it, people will judge them. These social lenses impact the ways people talk to or work with male survivors. That’s why the social lenses must be taken off to normalize the discourse, he said.

Additionally, LePore talked about how men who are victims could help create a path to healing. He mentioned the “trauma informed care” which involves understanding, recognizing and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. But the most effective way is to break the stereotypes and normalize



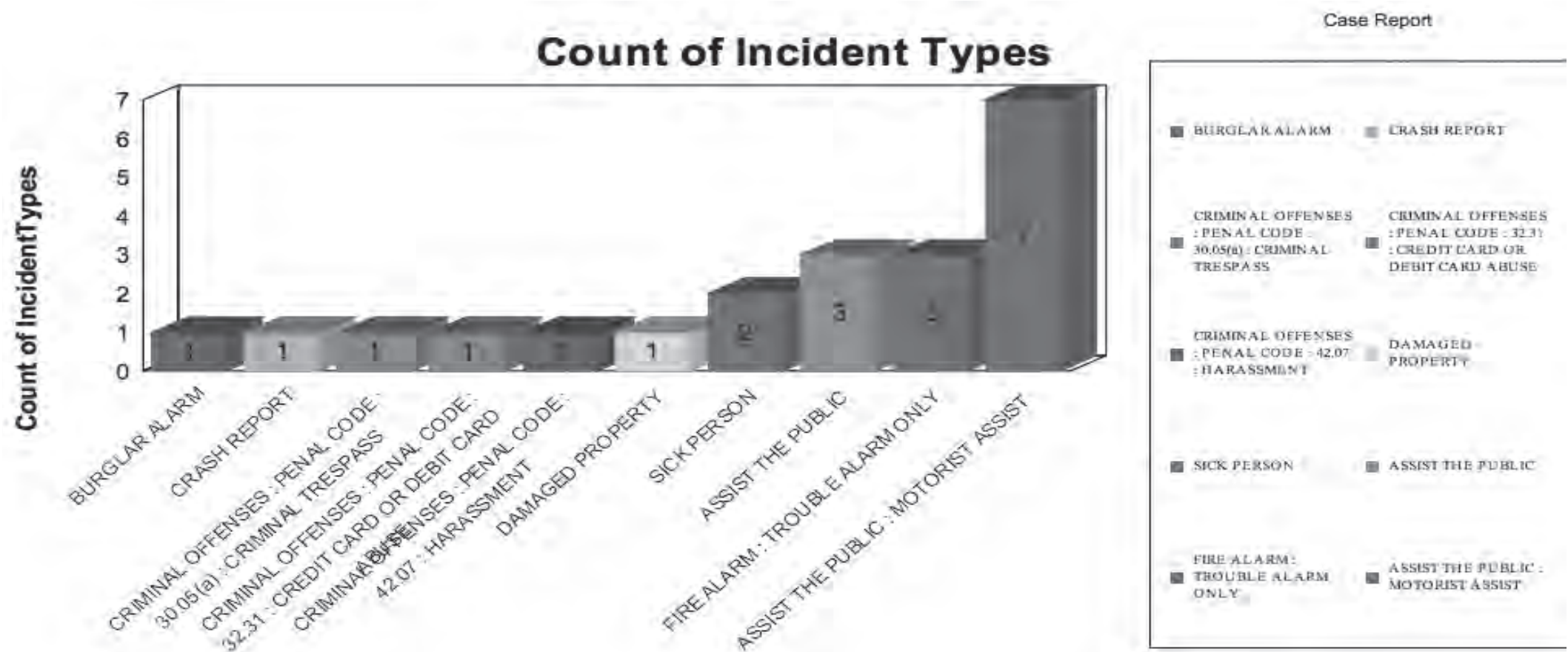
Steve LePore

the conversation, he said. He hoped through the workshop that people can engage critically and thoughtfully what is often thought to be unspeakable and reshape their perspective about male sexual abuse and assault.

Eitandria Gatlin, a personal counselor at Alamo Colleges, said he was glad he came to the workshop.

“It helps me become more aware of what certain men have gone through in the barrier that they communicate and how and when they might disclose that to someone by reacting in the most appropriate way possible,” Gatlin said.

UIW Crime Log Report



Campus police were called to assist the public eight times less than a month ago, September 2017. There were also seven less crashes reported to the campus police this month.